Prior to the transfer of the Scheme, the Ministry had on 27.9.2002 approved in principle Central assistance of Rs. 1.00 crore for the installation of a Synthetic Hockey Surface at the Sports Stadium, Jashpur, Chhattisgarh. In February, 2004, the State Government submitted some tender documents for the installation of the Synthetic Hockey Surface, which were found deficient. Hence, the Government of Chhattisgarh was requested to send the rectified documents, which the State Government has not submitted so far. Now, consequent upon the transfer of the Sports Infrastructure Scheme to the State sector, the State Government will have to fund the entire project out of their own resources.

Strengthening the Indian Cricket Team

2724. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the performance of Indian Team for World Cup 2007 has been disheartening;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what effective measures and necessary action are proposed to be taken by the Government to strengthen the Indian Cricket Team in future?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to information received from BCCI, the team did not play to its full potential.

(c) The BCCI has deliberated on the matter and also obtained the suggestions of former captains of the Indian cricket team. Based on the inputs received, the BCCI is taking necessary steps for improving the preparation of the Indian cricket team for participation in major events, which includes intensive training inputs in different aspects of the game; norms in terms of minimum level of participation in domestic competitions etc.

India's defeat in World CUP-2007

2725. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had taken note of Indian Cricket Team's defeat in various international championships particularly the recent defeat in the World Cup-2007;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government had taken up the matter with BCCI;

(d) if so, the response of the Board thereto and if not, the reasons therefore;

(e) whether Indian team is true representative of the country when vast talent is available due to huge popularity of the game;

(f) if so, the justifications therefor; and

(g) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to spot the real talents and to save country's name in international fora?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The performance of Indian Team at the World Cup 2007 has been disheartening.

(b) to (g) The Government took up the matter with BCCI. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has informed the Ministry that this was because our team did not play to its full potential; the BCCI has deliberated on the matter and also obtained the suggestions of former captains of the Indian cricket team. Based on the inputs received, the BCCI is taking necessary steps for improving the preparation of the Indian cricket team for participation in major events which includes intensive training inputs in different aspects of the game; norms in terms of minimum level of participation in domestic competitions etc. Selection of the national team is done by a committee which is fully equipped to choose the best possible players for the Indian team.

Lack of modern infrastructure for sports

2726. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is lack of modern infrastructure for sports in the country and the infrastructure of international standards is not available in India to the elite sportspersons; and